



Department of Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport and Resources

GPO Box 4509
Melbourne Victoria 3001 Australia
Telephone: 03 9651 9999
www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au
DX 210074

Ref: CSEC170542

7 March 2018

Mr Dominic Minghella
Coroner's Registrar
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Minghella

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ERIC FIESLEY

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2017 regarding the investigation into the death of Mr Eric Fiesley. The Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) has asked me to respond on his behalf.

On behalf of DEDJTR, I offer condolences to Mr Fiesley's family and friends.

As you are aware, the Coroner requested that the Secretary, DEDJTR develops "*a legislative framework which would require a medical practitioner to report to VicRoads when that practitioner forms an opinion that his/her patient has a medical condition that may render it inappropriate for the patient to drive*".

Transport for Victoria (TfV), a statutory office within DEDJTR, was established to be the lead transport agency in Victoria. Since April 2017, TfV has led Victoria's road safety partnership and has had responsibility for road safety legislation and regulation.

TfV is involved in two significant research projects concerning older drivers. OzCanDrive is tracking over 1200 older drivers, in Australia, New Zealand and Canada to look at ways to improve safety for older drivers, with a specific brief to develop ways for doctors to identify those who might not be fit enough to drive. At the same time, the Older Drivers Baseline Project aims to better understand trends in the occurrence, severity and associated costs of older road user crashes and associated risk factors, and identify emerging older road user issues.

These projects will provide valuable evidence to allow TfV and its road safety partners to develop policy advice to Government. These projects will help in the understanding of the benefits and risks associated with regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

In addition, a working group has been established to pursue the actions set out in VicRoads' response to the Coroner's recommendations arising from the deaths of Mrs Pamela Elsdon (COR 2016 5554) and Mr Frederick Hylla (COR 2016 004001). The working group will facilitate projects to:

- a) improve health practitioner knowledge related to fitness to drive
- b) explore and document the impacts and consequences of a mandatory medical reporting framework
- c) enhance road safety for road users in Victoria through improved health practitioner fitness to drive interactions.

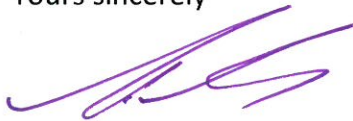
A reference group has been established to support the projects. The group includes policy makers and others from TfV and VicRoads, representatives of peak medical professional groups and the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine. A report on the outcome of these projects will be provided to the Coroner by 1 December 2018.

The secretary has provided the Coroner's recommendation arising from this investigation, and that of Mrs Elsdon, to me as the Head, Transport for Victoria. I also note that Coroner Jamieson recently wrote to me regarding the death of Mr Stanislaw Czubryj (COR 2017 001790) to provide information that can assist in the preparation of the report to the Coroner.

TfV will continue to monitor developments regarding fitness to drive, addressing all age cohorts, to ensure that Government is provided with appropriate and timely advice and policy options to address this important challenge.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Miles
Head Transport for Victoria

CC: Richard Bolt
Secretary